

**Finding Aid for National
Museum of Mexican Art Records
MS.2006.4**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository Julian Samora Library at the Institute for Latino Studies

Creator National Museum of Mexican Art. (Chicago, Illinois)

Title National Museum of Mexican Art Records

Date [inclusive] 1983-2009

Extent 2.0 Linear feet

Language English

Language of Materials note Materials mostly in English, with select pieces in Spanish.

Abstract Items in this collection chronicle events and exhibitions put together by the National Museum of Mexican Art (formerly the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum), Chicago, IL. from 1983 to 2007, and include original pamphlets created in the early days of the museum's existence. One folder contains photocopied documents kept by the Director, Carlos Tortolero, on the controversy that shrouded The Chicago Show of 1990, and one box holds publicity materials categorized by the museum's major annual events (Day of the Dead Exhibit, Sor Juana Festival, and Mexican Performing Arts Festival). The remaining publicity materials are in chronological order, each folder containing items from a specific year.

Preferred Citation note

Researchers wishing to cite materials from this collection may use the following acknowledgement: [title of item], National Museum of Mexican Art Records, Julian Samora Library at the Institute for Latino Studies, University of Notre Dame.

Biographical/Historical note

The National Museum of Mexican Art (NMMA) was founded in 1982 by Carlos Tortolero and Helen Valdez but was without a permanent museum space until 1987, when it moved into a building in Harrison Park located in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood. Since then, it has tripled in space and expanded its programming and outreach efforts while its mission remained focused on the showcasing the art and culture of Mexico and its people around the world, building a permanent collection of Mexican art, and to offer arts-education programs. Each year, it also holds one of the nation's largest annual Day of the Dead exhibits, and two festivals were created in 1994 as part of an initiative to engage the community: Del Corazon: the Mexican Performing Arts Festival and the Sor Juana Festival which honors the accomplishments of Mexican women. In 2006, the museum changed its name from the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum to The National Museum of Mexican Art. NMMA holds the largest collections of Mexican art.

Scope and Contents note

This collection consists primarily of publicity materials for events and exhibitions held at the National Museum of Mexican Art (formerly known as the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum) in Chicago, Illinois. An exception to this is a folder of photocopied documents that chronicle protest actions by a group representing minority artists and responses related to The Chicago Show controversy of 1990. The 1990 Chicago Show was organized by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, The Art Institute of Chicago, and the Museum of Contemporary Art. This folder contains newspaper articles, opinion pieces, press releases, multiple press statement drafts with annotations, and correspondence between Lois Weisberg (then commissioner of the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs) and other individuals related to minority representation, race, and mainstream cultural organizations. The remaining collection includes 1998-2001 annual reports, original copies of the museum newsletter "Codice", two issues of "Museums Chicago", special advertising supplement on the museum in a 1999 issue of Chicago Sun-Times, catalog for the exhibition "Art of the Other Mexico: Sources & Meanings", publications titled "Chicago-Mexico Dialogue. Puentes: Bridging Cultural Communities" and "The Cora: People of the Sierra Madre", as well as photocopies of articles about the museum. Box 2 contains full-color publicity materials for three major events organized by the museum: Day of the Dead exhibit (1988-2005), Sor Juana Festival, and the Mexican Performing Arts Festival (1994-1995). The materials include brochures, pamphlets, postcards and booklets. Boxes 3 and 4 contain original pamphlets, cards and other publicity materials for exhibitions and events dated between 1983 and 2007, and b/w print outs of the museum e-newsletter from 2007-2009.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Julian Samora Library at the Institute for Latino Studies

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Chicago Show. (1990: Chicago, Ill.)
- Del Corazón: the Mexican Performing Arts Festival. (Chicago, Ill.)
- Día de los Muertos exhibit. (Chicago, Ill.)
- Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum. (Chicago, Ill.)
- National Museum of Mexican Art. (Chicago, Illinois)
- Sor Juana Festival. (Chicago, Ill.)

Personal Name(s)

- Tortolero, Carlos

Subject(s)

- Art exhibitions--Illinois--Chicago
- Art museums--United States--Exhibitions
- Art, Mexican--20th century
- Art, Mexican--21st century
- Hispanic American art--Exhibitions
- Hispanic American art--Illinois--Chicago--20th Century
- Hispanic American artists--Exhibitions